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Santali [in this Italian version of Zeller's standard work, the text of the original is closely followed and faithfully rendered, and the appended bibliography of Greek philosophy is good, though not complete].

Revue Universitaire—Nov., Pour le Grec, Marcel Espy; La Sixième et la Grammaire Latine, Gustave Leprince; Chronique du Mois, André Balz [France is undergoing a "crise de l'enseignement secondaire", doubtless in part precipitated by the Great War, but, according to many, the logical outcome of the adoption of the "programmes de 1902", utilitarian and 'encyclopedic' in their character, a revision of which is now demanded. These three articles all oppose the encyclopedic quality of the present course of study, and the first two strongly favor a return to the older, classical type of education. The first attributes the glory of France to the high ideals produced by the study of antiquity. The second article stresses the importance of the beginners' class in Latin, and the desirability of accuracy rather than rapidity, of quality rather than quantity. The methods used in teaching Modern Languages should not be applied to Latin: "l'enseignement du latin s'infecte de methode directe"].

Rivista di Filosofia—June, Platon und Sokrates, Carl Siegal, reviewed by G. M. [Plato's treatment of Socrates is less the description of a philosophic life, than the philosophic description of a life].

The Saturday Review—Dec. 3, E. B. M. [a brief letter, applying Juvenal 10.77-82 to the present state of England].

School and Society—Dec. 31, A Study of 1,000 Errors in Latin Prose Composition, C. W. Odell.

Scientific American—Jan., Recent Discoveries in Greek Lands [a sketch, based on Discovery in Greek Lands, F. H. Marshall. For a review of the book see THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 14.166-167].

Scottish Geographical Magazine—Oct., Geographic Aspects of Tradition, Rachel M. Fleming [the article stresses the dependence of early man upon his geographic background. There is some slight reference to the Greeks].

Spectator—Dec. 3, Verissimus [an unsigned review of Henry Dwight Sedgwick, Life of Marcus Aurelius, which is called "delightful"].

The World's Work—Dec., Education for What? [an unsigned editorial, commenting on the article, The Iron Man, by Arthur Pound, in The Atlantic Monthly, Oct.].

Zeitschrift für Aesthetik und Allgemeine Kunstwissenschaft, XV. 2 (1920)—Vom Altertum zur Gegenwart. 'Das Gymnasium und die Neue Zeit [author not given], reviewed by Max Dessoir.—XV. 4 (1921), Kunstcharaktere Südabendländischer Völker, Otto Höver [the first part deals with the Dorians and the Ionians, the second with the Italians]; Schiller und die Griechische Tragödie, Melitta Gerhard, reviewed by Erich Aron.

HUNTER COLLEGE

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### IS THE 'RICOGNIZIONE DEL CADAVERE' A SURVIVAL OF A PAGAN CUSTOM?

Professor Eugene S. McCartney, in THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 15.128, maintains that the 'Ricognizione del Cadavere', as described by The Chicago Tribune, of January 22 last, is a survival of a pagan custom. He invites teachers of Vergil to compare it with Aeneid 6.505-506: Tunc egomet tumulum Rhoeteo litore inanem constitui et magna Manis ter voce vocavi.

Without entering into a discussion of the significance of the *conclamatio* as practised by the Greeks and the Romans, may I say that the declaration that we have in the Ricognizione a survival of the *conclamatio* seems to me unconvincing? I might accept it if it were demonstrated that the circumstances are exactly parallel, or if we could point to a traditional proof in favor of it. Is the parallel of the situations so striking? The scene described by the Chicago Tribune is evidently meant to be a recognition of the death of the Pope by a duly appointed official: the Cardinal calls the Pope three times by his name, and, receiving no answer, says to the bystanders, 'The Pope is really dead'. This ceremony takes place shortly after the death, and is entirely independent of the funeral, which may be held several days later.

In Aeneid 6.505-506, we have the erection of a cenotaph and the calling of the Manes, which we may interpret as an invitation to the soul of the dead to come and occupy the tomb erected in his honor. Are not the situations entirely different?

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### PROFESSOR McCARTNEY'S REPLY

In my note I did not mean to imply that there was any similarity except in the calling of the name of the departed three times. The writer of the article on Funus in Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities says that the *conclamatio* is "a custom still in use at the death-bed of a pope". Is it at all essential in the case of a survival for the situations to be exactly alike?

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### THE CLASSICAL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The 161st meeting of The Classical Club of Philadelphia was held on Friday evening, March 3, with twenty-two members present. The paper, presented by Professor L. A. Post, of Haverford College, dealt with the Epitrepontes of Menander. After mentioning the fact that the high estimate of the art of Menander which was held by antiquity had suffered eclipse since the discovery of substantial portions of his plays, Professor Post made a warm defense of the dramatist. He gave a complete analysis of the plot of the play under discussion, and praised the plot, characterization, situations, and humor. The paper closed with a sparkling translation of the entire play, so far as we have it.

The 162nd meeting was held on Friday, April 7. Fifty members and guests were present. Professor William Romaine Newbold, of the University of Pennsylvania, gave an illustrated account of the famous Cipher Manuscript of Roger Bacon. This manuscript is in an excellent state of preservation. Not the least remarkable feature of it lies in the drawings, in color, with which it is copiously illustrated. A study of these drawings seems to show that Bacon possessed both the telescope and the microscope, and that he anticipated by centuries modern discoveries in astronomy and biology. To all this Bacon joins much speculative philosophy and astrology.

The manuscript defied all attempts at decipherment until Professor Newbold discovered the key to the unbelievably complicated cipher, and succeeded in reading considerable portions of it. The very letters of which the cipher is composed are themselves made up of other letters almost microscopically small, and all functioning in the structure of the cipher.

B. W. MITCHELL,  
Secretary